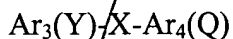


maprotiline, nortriptyline, protriptyline, trazodone, bupropion, mirtazapine, venlafaxine, nefazodone, reboxetine, and fluoxetine.

37. (Amended) A composition for local administration comprising a second or third generation antidepressant, and a vehicle suitable for local administration, wherein the second or third generation antidepressant has a structure:



wherein Ar₃ is a substituted N-containing heterocyclic ring,

Y is either an aryl group fused to the heterocyclic ring, or one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkyloxy, arylalkyl, arylalkyloxy, aryl, heteroaryl substituents, and combinations thereof comprising a total of about 4 to 8 carbons attached to Ar₃,

X is an alkyl group comprising 2 to 5 carbon atoms linking Ar₃ and Ar₄,

Ar₄ is a piperazine attached to X by a first nitrogen atom of Ar₄, and

Q is a benzene ring optionally substituted with a biocompatible halogen and attached to Ar₄ at a second nitrogen atom of Ar₄.

49. (Amended) The composition according to claim 26 in a formulation selected from the group consisting of a cream, a lotion, a gel, an ointment, a spray, a patch, a polymer stabilized crystal, and an aerosol.

A marked up version of these claims identifying the amended language therein is provided herewith as APPENDIX A. In addition, please introduce claims 72 and 73 as follows. A complete set of the claims as they will stand following entry of the amendment submitted herewith is provided as APPENDIX B.

Please add new claims 72-73 as follows:

72. (New) The composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of second or third generation antidepressant in said composition falls in the range of about 0.5 up to 10 wt %.